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19 November 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Conversation with Congressman John Davis Lodge

I had Congressman John Davis Lodge to dinner on Tuesday, 18 November, and his discussions contained two major points. First, that we should stop the withdrawal of our troops from Italy until we are convinced that the Russians have withdrawn their troops from Bulgaria. The official limiting date in both cases is 15 December, but, with our present schedule, all of our troops should be out of Italy by 3 December. Congressman Lodge suggested that the Secretary of Defense go to the President and endeavor to obtain the slowing down of our withdrawal and, if possible, the putting back into Italy of some of the troops who have already left. I explained to him that I believed this would be a very difficult thing to do but that I would inform you.

The second point of discussion was Congressman Lodge's extremely firm idea that the United States must start immediately an organization to carry on psychological warfare in the very broadest sense, including actual subversive operations. He recommended that an appropriation of twenty-five million dollars, to be disbursed clandestinely, should be supplied to go along with the interim aid programs and the Marshall plan. Congressman Lodge said he would support both openly and privately in the Congress the idea of such an organization as well as all the money necessary to operate it. I explained to him, without going into detail, that this subject was under consideration now by the Security Council, and, if we had any difficulty getting appropriations, or rather Congressional authority, we would come to him for help. He assented to this and repeated several times that he was perfectly willing to act as our contact man in Congress for such activities and that he would do all possible to see that they were started and adequately supported.

s/ RHH - S/D copy by hand of Director 11/19
cc to ES/NSC -thru CR 11/19
R. H. HILLENKOTTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central Intelligence

cc - Executive Secretary, NSC

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